

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652:N/A

SUBJECT: TRUCKS FOR NIGER

ROME FOR FODAG PASS OSRO

REFS: (A) ROME 10527; (B) STATE 144397; (C) STATE 140213;

(D) STATE 121541; (E) STATE 121540; (F) STATE 121237

1. AID/W APPRECIATES THE APPARENT CONFUSION CONCERNING
THE FINANCING OF NIGER TRUCKS AS OUTLINED REFTTEL A AND
THE SENSITIVITY WITH WHICH FUNDING OF OVERALL REQUIREMENTS
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MUST BE ADDRESSED.

2. FIRST, AS NOTED PARA 2, REFTEL A, WE UNDERSTAND THE MAGNITUDE OF TRANSPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SAHEL AND ARE HOPEFUL THAT SPECIFIC ANALYSIS TO BE ORGANIZED BY OSRO WILL DETAIL THESE REQUIREMENTS AND PROVIDE A FIRM BASIS FOR DONOR CONTRIBUTION ACTION. WE CONCUR THAT APPEALS WOULD BE BEST FOCUSED ON THESE LARGER SAHEL REQUIREMENTS.

3. IN THE SPECIFIC CASE OF NIGER, HOWEVER, THE USG INITIATIVE SUGGESTING OSRO ORGANIZATION OF MULTI-DONOR RESPONSE TO MEET THE URGENT NIGER REQUIREMENT WAS THE RESULT OF GON ACTIONS WHICH HAD ALREADY RESULTED IN REJECTIONS OF BOTH CANADIAN AND DUTCH BI-LATERAL ASSIS-

TANCE OFFERS. WHILE USG COULD HAVE PROVIDED BI-LATERAL ASSISTANCE AND INDEED HAD SOME GON ASSURANCE OFFER WOULD BE ACCEPTED, SUCH ACTION CLEARLY WOULD HAVE BEEN PREJUDICIAL TO OSRO LONGER-TERM INTERESTS AND QUITE LIKELY HAVE RESULTED IN AT LEAST TWO DONORS (CANADIAN AND DUTCH) ADOPTING A STANCE WHICH MIGHT HAVE SUGGESTED USG ALSO PICK UP ANY OTHER AD HOC NEEDS THAT HAPPENED TO COME ALONG. IT APPEARED TO US THAT THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO OSRO MULTI-DONOR TRUCK APPROACH TO NIGER WAS A MORE EXPENSIVE MULTI-DONOR AIRLIFT, ALSO UNDESIRABLE.

4. A REVIEW OF REFTELS B THROUGH F REFLECT THE FACT THAT USG IS INTERESTED PRINCIPALLY IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE OF THE KIND AND IN THE FORM, EITHER MULTI-NATIONALLY OR BI-LATERALLY WHICH WILL RESULT IN MOST EFFECTIVELY MEETING THE URGENT REQUIREMENTS OF THE COUNTRY INVOLVED. WHILE PUBLIC CREDIT FOR USG ACTIONS IS IMPORTANT, WE ARE MORE INTERESTED IN HOW WELL THE EFFORT IS SERVED BY OUR ACTIONS. WE FEEL THAT EFFORT IS BEST SERVED WHEN OUR ACTIONS RESULT IN THE WIDEST POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION BY THE REST OF THE WORLD IN DEALING WITH THE CONCERNS OF THE SAHEL. FOR THAT REASON, WE PRECEED VIRTUALLY EVERY INITIATIVE OR RESPONSE WITH SOME INDICATION THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO QUOTE SHARE WITH OTHER DONORS UNQUOTE THE COST OF THE PARTICULAR ACTION.

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5. WITH RESPECT PARA 3 REFTEL A, US CONCERN BASED ON REASONS CITED PARA 3 ABOVE.

6. WITH RESPECT TO PARA 4, REFTEL A, IF IT NOW OSRO FEELING THAT EITHER USG OR OSRO EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE OTHER DONORS TO SHARE COST OF NIGER TRUCK OPERATION ARE DETRIMENTAL TO LONGER RUN APPEAL CONSIDERATIONS RELATIVE TO MEETING OVERALL TRANSPORT NEEDS, AND NO

OTHER DONORS HAVE AGREED TO DATE TO ASSIST NIGER IN THIS
REGARD, USG WILL ASSUME FULL BURDEN OF OSRO COSTS FOR
PROVISION OF TRUCKS/OPERATING EXPENSES NOT TO EXCEED
U.S. DOLS 600,000. ADVISE.

DECONTROL: 12/31/74. KISSINGER

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